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NEWS IN BRIEF.

Compiled from Various Sources.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

(Second Session.)

In the senate, on the 19th, the debate on the Nicaragua canal bill was continued, occupying over four hours of the sitting. Mr. Turpie (Ind.) resumed and finished his speech against the bill, concluding by offering a substitute providing for a board of three civil engineers to make a survey and estimate, which he declared was the only way to proceed at this season. Sp. "ches in favor of the bill were made by Mr. Cullom (Ill.) and Mr. Perkins (Cal.).... In the house the debate on the currency bill occupied the hours. Mr. Warner (N. Y.) advocated and Messrs. Johns (Ind.) and Ellis (Ky.) opposed the bill. Mr. Bland (Mo.) gave notice that he would move to amend by substituting for the bill his free-coinage-of-silver-and-coin-note scheme.

In the senate, on the 20th, the entire time of the session was devoted to the exercises in connection with the acceptance and placing in Statuary hall of the capitol of the marble statues of Gen. John Stark and Daniel Webster, presented to the nation by the state of New Hampshire. The eulogies consisted of four speeches upon Stark and ten upon Webster.... In the house the Carlisle currency and banking bill was under discussion for three hours. An urgency deficiency bill was passed appropriating \$300,000 to carry on the work of closing up the eleven census, and \$100,000 to pay jurors and witnesses in United States courts. Senate bill granting a pension of \$100 per month to the widow of Gen. Banks was passed. The remainder of the session was devoted to the ceremonies connected with the reception of the gift of the state of New Hampshire of statues of Gen. Stark and Daniel Webster.

THE senate was not in session on the 21st.... In the house Mr. Springer presented and read for information the substitute for the Carlisle currency and banking bill, of which he had given previous notice. The discussion of the bill occupied most of the afternoon. Bills were passed admitting contract laborers and articles for exhibition at the Atlanta (Ga.) and Portland (Ore.) expositions duty free. A concurrent resolution was agreed to providing for the holiday recess of congress extending from the 23d to January 3.

In the senate, on the 22d, the concurrent resolution for Christmas holidays was concurred in. A resolution instructing the secretary of the navy to report why a United States ship-of-war has not been stationed and retained at Honolulu, offered by Mr. Lodge (Mass.), went over without action. The senate adjourned until January 3.... In the house one speech was made in favor of the currency and banking bill and three were made in opposition to it. Previous to the taking up of the currency bill, several private bills were passed by unanimous consent. At 5:30 o'clock the house adjourned for the holiday recess.

PERSONAL AND POLITICAL.

On the 21st Count Botho Eulenberg was the guest of the emperor at the royal hunt at Koenigswaterhausen. Other guests surmised that Count Botho, who was once president of the Prussian council of ministers, would before long succeed Prince Hohenlohe as chancellor of the empire.

MAXIMILIAN SCHMITTBEGER, captain of police, in command of the "Tenderloin" district, made a confession before the Lexow committee, on the 21st, to the effect that the entire police system of New York city, with the exception of Supt. Byrnes and a few others, was rotten to the core; that blackmail and bribery, extortion and corruption were common crimes in the department, and that mercenary methods alone actuated his fellow-officers.

ARCHBISHOP CORRIGAN, on the 21st, authorized his private secretary, Rev. H. T. Newey, to state, in regard to the interdiction of the odd fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Sons of Temperance by the pope, that it does not imply that Catholics who continue to be members of these orders will be excommunicated or compelled to undergo a penance.

It was decided, on the evening of the 21st, by the attorneys for Debs and the other officials of the American Railway union to take an appeal from the decision of Judge Woods. The case will be carried to the United States supreme court.

On the 23d the remains of Sir John Thompson were placed on board H. M. S. Blenheim, at Plymouth, to be conveyed home to Canada for interment. All due honor was paid to the dead premier, a wreath from the queen being among the floral tokens displayed upon the coffin. The vessel sailed on the 23d.

On the 23d Col. J. B. Batchelor, United States government Geittsburg historian, died at his home in Boston, of pneumonia. He had been ill but a short time.

HENRY MULLEN, president of the Miners' district organization at Massillon, O., has issued a statement to the effect that the miners accepted the award of the board of arbitration under protest, reserving the right to ask for a new settlement when opportunity offers.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES.

JOHN COX attempted to kill his wife at Gray's, Ky., on the 18th. Cox was drunk, and fired two shots at his wife, but missed her. Seizing an ax, he threw it at her head, but missed her. The woman picked up the ax and attacked her husband, almost chopping his head from his body.

JOHN SCHUSTER, a farmer of Macomb county, Mich., was burned to death, on the night of the 19th, while trying to rescue cattle from a burning barn. He was first overcome by the smoke.

On the 21st Edward P. Farrington, aged 55, of Brewer, Me., treasurer of the Brewer savings bank, committed suicide by shooting through the temple. He had been a prominent merchant and business man for many years. There was no shortage in his accounts.

On the 21st Jacob Clark, a well-known civil engineer and a surveyor of Elizabeth, N. J., was struck and fatally injured by a locomotive while at work surveying the tracks of the Central Railroad of New Jersey.

On the 21st James Bullock, secretary of the Montreal Hunt club, shot and killed himself in his office in Montreal, Can.

ROBERT POSTEN, formerly a confidential employe of the packing firm of Underwood & McCoy, of Chicago, and who, on his disappearance about one year ago, was charged with the embezzlement of over \$30,000 from the firm, was arrested in Chicago on the night of the 21st.

MISS FANNY MARKEL, a highly-respected young lady of Clinton, Ia., jumped from the Clinton and Illinois high bridge into the Mississippi river on the 21st. She was dead when the body was recovered. No cause is known for her act.

JAMES BRUGH and John Brugh, cousins, aged 10 and 14, respectively, were returning home from school at Leipers, Ind., when they became involved in a fight, when John stabbed James, who fell dead at his feet. The boys had always been the best of friends and companions.

At Vancouver, B. C., Geo. F. Ashwood, a Canadian Pacific railroad laborer, while crazed with drink, shot his wife and two children while they were asleep in bed. The woman and one child were instantly killed and the other child fatally injured. The murderer then made a weak attempt at suicide.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A MEDAL of honor has been awarded in the name of congress to David P. Day, private Co. D, Fifty-seventh Ohio volunteers, for distinguished bravery in an assault on the enemy's works at Vicksburg, May 22, 1863. This was by direction of the president.

A SCHEME to make a general distribution of government maps among schools throughout the country is provided for in a recommendation forwarded by Director Walcott, of the geological survey, to Secretary Smith, and by him transmitted to congress.

THE Portuguese government has decided to construct a navy, and with this object in view the sum of \$120,000 yearly will be provided for twenty years. Bids will be invited from ship builders in the United States and other countries.

THE statement of the associated banks of New York city for the week ended the 22d showed the following changes: Reserve, increase, \$554,850; loans, decrease, \$8,605,100; specie, increase, \$6,551,100; legal tenders, decrease, \$8,569,800; deposits, decrease, \$10,294,200; circulation, decrease, \$36,200.

ON the 22d the associated banks of New York city held \$33,900,675 in excess of the requirements of the 25-per-cent rule.

BREMEN state authorities have issued an order prohibiting importation of cattle and pigs from England and Ireland. The authorities of Hamburg have issued a similar prohibitory order.

CONDENSED TELEGRAMS.

THE German lodges of Knights of Pythias of Albany, N. Y., have decided to withdraw from the order and organize themselves into a new order to be known as the "Improved Order of the Knights of Pythias."

FRANK JAMES, the ex-train robber, is to become an actor. He is to star in a melodrama depicting life in the far West.

JOHN E. BITTELL and his wife are under arrest at St. Joseph, Mo., charged with flooding Oklahoma with counterfeit one, two and five dollar notes.

JUSTICE WALL, in the case of the People vs. Ryan, at Leadville, Col., for arson, has rendered a decision dismissing Ryan and holding that there is no law in Colorado prohibiting a man from burning his own house.

INTERESTING developments are expected at an early day as a result of the strained relations between the United States and Spain over the tariff.

MRS. CARRIE MOON, of Newman's Grove, Del., went out to milk a fractious cow. As she did not return as soon as usual, her children went out and found her lying under the cow, dead, the cow having kicked and stamped her to death.

ONE white man and seven negroes were killed near Quitman, Ga., on the 23d. The whites and blacks to the number of 400 are armed and a race war is feared.

THIRTEEN Federal prisoners arrived at the Ohio penitentiary on the 23d from Georgia, nine of whom were whitecaps, three counterfeiters and one embezzler. At Terre Haute, Ind., on the 23d, Mrs. Julia A. Harrigan fell out of bed in such a way as to break her neck.

The citizens of Newmarket, Ind., to the number of twenty-five, marched to the Newmarket saloon on the 21st and applied the incendiary torch. The building and contents were burned to the ground. This is the second time in two years the place has been burned out.

The Supreme Court of Alabama has annulled the charter of the Capital City Waterworks Company, because it has violated its contract in having furnished the city of Montgomery instead of unadulterated artesian water an admixture of artesian and river water.

ABE SYCOCK, a farmer living near Pocahontas, Ark., was assassinated on the 24th while sitting by his fireside with his wife. The shot was fired through a window. There is no clew.

FIERCE FIGHTING.

A Chinese Force Makes a Determined Stand, Fighting Bravely for Five Hours, But Finally Flee in the Direction of Ying Kow. Before the Superior Organization and Valor of the Pursuing Japanese—The Casualties.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—The Antony correspondent of the Central News says that Gen. Yamagata's division of the second division of the Japanese army has advanced northward steadily for a month, and, on December 18, occupied Kai Ping. No defense was made.

On December 19 scouts reported to Lieut.-Gen. Katsura, then near Lao Yang, that a large force of Chinese could be seen moving in the direction of Lao Chang. This force proved to be the defeated garrison of Hai Chang under the command of Gen. Sung.

The Chinese had fled with all possible speed ever since the 13th, when their position was captured by the enemy. They were then in a rather demoralized condition and were making for Moukden.

Katsura decided to intercept them. He left camp on the night of the 18th with his whole force, and the next morning overtook the Chinese at the village of Kung Wasai, where they made an obstinate stand. Although in poor condition they were nearly 10,000 strong, and forced some fierce fighting upon the Japanese. In the midst of the battle Oshima's brigade from Hai Cheng came up and gave Katsura active support.

The Chinese held out with surprising bravery. They faced the well-directed fire from five Japanese batteries and fought desperately, although without effective organization. The Japanese infantry charged twice through the scattered lines, but the enemy rallied.

Three bayonet charges eventually won the day for Katsura after five hours of the hottest fighting yet experienced by the second army. The Chinese faltered as the third advance began, and then fled in disorder towards Ying Kow. The losses are not known, but the Chinese are reported to have left 500 men on the field.

Fukushima, who gained notoriety some time ago by riding from Berlin to Corea, has been appointed chief civil administrator of Antony.

A dispatch from the Central News correspondent in Tokio says that Corea has agreed to open the new ports of Mokpo, province of Chollado, and Chinnampo, on the Taitsung river.

INDISCRIMINATE MURDER.

The People of Brooks County, Ga., Are "Aroused," and Innocent and Guilty Alike Suffer.

QUITMAN, Ga., Dec. 24.—The posse in pursuit of Waverly Pike, the murderer of Joe Isom, Saturday night and early yesterday morning killed three negroes, and reliable information is that the total number of victims is seven.

The negroes known to have been killed are: Sam Taylor, Eli Frazer and Harry Sherrard. Taylor was Pike's step-father, and the other two negroes his close pals, all of whom were supposed to know of Pike's whereabouts. If these negroes knew, they refused to tell, and the penalty of not telling was death. Pike's wife was seen to slip into the house at 4 o'clock yesterday morning. She was supposed to have known where the murderer was, and every effort was made to make her divulge. The mob still has her securely held and may succeed in making her tell. The negroes killed were all shot down on this side of the Ocopee creek, about ten miles above Quitman.

The report is that a second posse, which was scouring the woods north of the Ocopee creek, have killed four other negroes.

This wholesale killing is terrible, but the people of that community claim to have had terrible provocation. Hardly three weeks ago Tip Mauldin, a respectable white man, was murdered on the public road in the same neighborhood by two negroes, and the murderers are now in jail. When Isom, the best citizen in the community, was cowardly murdered by one of the same gang, the pent-up flood of rage and vengeance was turned loose.

The record of last night and to-day remains to be seen. Brooks county is aroused. The wholesale killing of negroes not directly connected with Isom's murder is severely condemned.

A SYSTEMATIC SWINDLE.

A Trusted Cashier Robs His Unsuspecting Employers of \$16,000.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Harold G. Butt, 26 years of age, who for more than two years past has been the cashier for Sam'l Hammeslough, clothier, at 698 Broadway, was a prisoner in the Toombs court yesterday, charged with embezzling \$16,000 of that firm's money. Butt has never been suspected of wrongdoing, and has been implicitly trusted by the firm.

In the early part of this month the firm began to take stock and generally investigate their affairs. The books showed that they had \$42,000 in cash in various banks, and the investigation revealed that there was only \$26,000 to their credit. It was then found that Butt had been systematically altering the books for some time past.

Butt confessed his crime, saying that he had spent all of the money on horses and in bucket shops. Butt's family and friends have expressed a desire to make restitution. It was said that Mr. Hammeslough had no disposition to press a charge against Butt, and that in all probability a settlement would be effected.

BILL COOK'S DEFI.

He Sends a Message to "Uncle Jim" McAlister Inviting Him to Come and Take Him—Christmas Greeting to a Train Crew—Great Excitement at Muscogee—Robbed an Express Office—Killed in a Bagnio by Con-ederates.

MUSCOGEE, I. T., Dec. 24.—Yesterday afternoon about 5 o'clock a courier from the intrepid Cook gang rode into Muscogee and delivered the following message to the officers from Bill Cook:

"UNCLE JIM—I am in camp with my men four miles north of the Arkansas bridge and we are ready for any kind of fun you and your deputies will suggest. We will remain in our present quarters a day and more, and if you decide to pay us a call, ride right without knocking. We know you and your force. Our spy told us that you tried to get your deputies out after us Saturday morning, shortly after you heard about us borrowing Cash's horse, but failed. Take your time to get up a posse, we will be near your town for some time yet."

Marshal McAlister received the message with a degree of surprise, and at once ordered all of his available deputies to report at his office at once, ready for duty. Some of the deputies, especially those who have heretofore been after the bandits, said they would not go out again unless they were reimbursed for money spent on former trips.

No. 2 freight, going south, has just arrived, and the brakemen have further news concerning Capt. Cook and his company. Eight miles north of Muscogee, or four miles north of the Arkansas bridge, is a high hill within fifty yards of the railroad, known as Nigger hill. As the train slowly climbed the grade caused by the hill, the brakemen saw a large camp fire; when they reached the top of the elevation they saw six or seven men near the fire. They began hallooing to the brakemen, "A happy Christmas to you, boys. If you stop in Muscogee, tell Uncle Jim that we will either bring or send him a Christmas present."

The news is causing considerable excitement among the citizens. All the deputies have gone home for Christmas except those on the road to Columbus with prisoners for the penitentiary.

Bus Luck, Tom Root, Jim Reed and two others robbed the express office at Nowata Saturday night and got \$95. It was reported that Bill Cook and Cherokee Bill were in the gang that did the robbing, but the report is not correct. Cook and Cherokee Bill are not ten miles from Muscogee.

At 10:30 last night William Rider, one of the Cook gang, was killed in a dive in the northern part of town by confederates.

Ryder, Frave Carver, Jim Finnigan and another man were in a dive on Smoky row about 10 o'clock, drinking and gambling. About 10:30 a shot was heard in the dive and half a minute later the crowd ran out, and one of the women ran into the street shouting that Will Ryder had shot himself.

This report was contradicted by an 8-year-old boy, who says he was in the house when the shooting occurred, and that he saw a man shoot Ryder and run out of the back door and head for the railroad yard. One of the girls followed him and hid in a coal chute till a north-bound passenger left the depot and as the train came by she jumped on the rear end of the sleeper. The guards on the train observed her on the platform just as the train reached Chouteau and arrested her. She will be brought to Muscogee in the morning. Ryder was unquestionably a member of the Cook gang. While searching his person several letters from Lulu Cook were found. Carter and Finnigan have been arrested.

THE RECREANT SON

Of a Worthy Father Sent to the Ohio Penitentiary—Married in Jail.

COLUMBUS, O., Dec. 24.—James N. Bray, reputed son of an English army officer of high rank, arrived at the Ohio penitentiary Saturday night.

He came to this country a few months ago and located in Cleveland, where he purchased costly furniture on the installment plan, sold it and, without paying for it, skipped to Houston, Tex., where he was arrested.

The arrest interfered with his marriage there to Miss Grace Hugo, but she followed to Cleveland and the wedding took place in the jail.

The young man's father sent him \$300 to square matters, and while the firm he had beaten was willing to settle the prosecutor would not allow it.

Then several wealthy and influential citizens, who satisfied themselves of the rank of the young man's father, tried to save the accused, but their efforts failed. They will now make an effort to secure a pardon for him from Gov. McKinley.

COMPLETELY WRECKED.

An Immense Engine Broken Up by the Violence of Its Own Motion.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Dec. 24.—The immense engine furnishing the hot blast for furnace H and I of the Carnegie plant at Bradlock, was completely wrecked yesterday afternoon. The loss is about \$15,000, and the furnaces will be closed down for an indefinite period, throwing 300 men out of employment. The output of the furnaces was from 200 to 250 tons per day. A heavy ball twenty feet above the floor became detached and fell on one of the pipes. The engine ran away and was broken up by the violence of its own action.

SOUTHERN GLEANINGS.

A Death Look.

Mr. C. D. Oliver, manager of Mr. J. F. Frank's "Alligator" plantation, in Lee county, Ark., tells a story that will interest all devotees of woodcraft. "Al Richardson and David Jackson, colored tenants on the plantation," said Mr. Oliver, "went into the St. Francis river bottom in search of a missing cow. Hearing a great racket at some distance, they went to the spot and found two large bucks fighting, with their wide-spreading antlers so closely entangled that each was the prisoner of the other. In their impotent fury they paid no attention to the two cow hunters until the latter had approached within a few feet of them. Then the bucks endeavored to get away, but escape was impossible. Richardson and Jackson dismounted from their mules and, drawing their pocket-knives—the only weapons they had—went in for Christmas venison. The imprisoned deer could offer no resistance, and the two men soon then, by cutting their throats. The back of one of the bucks had been broken in the fierce struggle with his antagonist, but he had been kept on his feet by the hold on the other's horns."

Mr. Oliver has the antlers and naturally prizes them highly as a trophy. The deer in the St. Francis basin are unusually fat this year.

College President Hanged in Effigy.

Congressman W. L. Wilson, of West Virginia, without his knowledge and consent, has been figuring conspicuously in the fight of Richmond (Va.) college students against their newly-elected president, Prof. Boatright. The other night President-elect Boatright was hung in effigy. Among the most conspicuous placards which greeted citizens who were up early enough to see the figure suspended was one reciting the fact that W. L. Wilson was elected to the presidency three years ago and declined, while Boatright accepted. Richmond college is one of the leading Baptist institutions in the south. The newly-elected president is only 26 years old.

Shot in an Elevator Accident.

Capt. B. A. Treacy, one of the best-known citizens of Clark county, Ky., met with a horrible death in an elevator at Winchester. The boy in charge of the elevator, which was used for transferring tobacco, lost control of the machine, and Capt. Treacy attempted to jump to the floor, when he was caught between the edge of the elevator and the floor, breaking his neck, one leg, one arm and crushing his body. He was 60 years old. He leaves a large family in comfortable circumstances.

To Reform the Bishops.

Sam Jones, now an editor of the Tennessee Methodist, wants to reform the bishops. He says: "Our idea is that bishops should be elected for four years, with eligibility to re-election if they behave themselves. They will then kiss the babies and look after their fencibles. But when a fellow is elected for life he's got a cinch, and you can't get at him."

Col. Mosby Has His Say.

Col. John S. Mosby has written a magazine article on the Shenandoah campaign, which will appear soon. He says that he has exploded various fables connected with that affair, and that while his own performances at the time were not so sensational as some of his other doings, he was there, as Phil. Sheridan found out.

Crowding Out American Cotton.

The Novosti, a newspaper published in St. Petersburg, Russia, says that the council of the empire has sanctioned an increase in the cotton import duty. This has been done, probably, at the instance of the cotton-growers of Turkistan, who have complained of the competition of American grown cotton.

Tennessee's Tramping Legislator.

Edward Dudley Duncan, representative-elect to the legislature from Washington county, Tenn., walked from his home to Nashville. Duncan made his canvass of the county on foot. On his election he decided to walk to Nashville, and to prove it he marked the mile posts on the railroad.

Quite a Time With Jails.

Franklin county, Miss., has quite a time with its jails. Within the last ten years two jails have been burned. Finally, the board of supervisors contracted for a fire-proof jail, but it had no sooner been completed than the roof was carried off by a cyclone.

Will Advertise the State.

Tennessee will erect a state building at the Atlanta (Ga.) exposition of her many beautiful varieties of marble. It will be a good advertisement, which is to say that it will return its cost many times over and make a lasting impression on every visitor.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Fell Upon a Saw.

At Harris' saw mill, in Robertson county, Tenn., Charles Reed's foot was caught by the saw and ripped open to the ankle bone. He fell and the saw teeth caught his arms, severing them both, besides lacerating him terribly. Death ensued in a few minutes.

Do Not Like the Plan.

The fraternal orders throughout Alabama are preparing to wage war against the passage of the proposed law imposing a tax of 1 per cent. on the gross receipts in Alabama of all insurance societies, stock or mutual.